Numb. 3346

The London Gazette.

Published by Authority.

From Thursday Decem. 2. to Monday Decem. 6. 1697.

Whitehall, Dec. 2.

THis day was observed the Gen. Thanksgiving for His Majesty's Safe Return, and the happy Conclusion of the Peace. His Majesty came to Whitehall Chapel, where the Bishop of Salisbury Preached; was pleased to Dine with the Earl of Romney; and in the Evening saw the Fireworks in St. James's-Square. The Quire of St. Paul's was opened the same day; And at Night there were Bonfires and Illuminations in all parts of London and Westminster, with other suitable Demonstrations of Joy.

Westminster, Dec. 3. The Parliament met this day, and the King being come to the House of Peers, and seated on the Throne in His Royal Robes with the usual Solemnity, the Commons were sent for up by the Usher of the Black Rod, who attending His Majesty accordingly; His Majesty made a most Gracious Speech to both Houses of Parliament, which follows.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THE War, which I Entred into by the Advice of My People, is by the Blessing of God, and their Zealous and Affectionate Assistance, brought to the End We all proposed, an Honourable peace; which I was willing to Conclude, not so much to Ease My Self from any Trouble or Hazard, as to free the Kingdom from the Continuing Burden of an Expensive War.

I am heartily sorry My Subjects will not at first find all that Relief from the Peace, which I could wish, and they may expect; but the Funds intended for the last Years Service have fallen short of Answering the Sums for which they were given, so that there remain considerable Deficiencies to be Provided for.

There's a Debt upon the Account of the Fleet and the Army.

The Revenues of the Crown have been anticipated, by My Consent, for Publick Uses; so that I am wholly destitute of means to support the Civil List; and I can never distrust you'l suffer this to turn to My disadvantage, but will provide for Me during My Life, in such a manner as may be for My Honour, and for the Honour of the Government.

Our Naval Force being increased to near double what it was at My Accession to the Crown, the Charge of maintaining it will be proportionably augmented, and it is certainly necessary for the Interest and Reputation of England, *to have always a great strength at Sea.*

The Circumstances of Affairs Abroad are such, that I think My Self obliged to tell you My Opinion, that for the present, England cannot be Safe without a Land Force; and I hope We shall not give those who mean us ill, the opportunity of Effecting that, under the Notion of a Peace, which they could not bring to pass by a War.

I doubt not but you Gentlemen of the House of Commons, will take these particulars into your Consideration, in such a manner as to provide the necessary Supplies, which I do very earnestly Recommend to you.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

That which I most delight to think of, and am best pleased to own, is, That I have all the Proofs of My Peoples Affection that a Prince can desire; and I take this Occasion to give them the most Solemn Assurance, That as I never had, so I never will nor can have any Interest separate from theirs,

I Esteem it one of the greatest Advantages of the Peace, that I shall now have leisure to rectifie such Corruptions or Abuses as may have crept into any part of the Administration during the War, and effectually to discourage Prophanes and Immorality; and I shall imploy My Thoughts in Promoting Trade, and Advancing the Happiness and Flourishing Estate of the Kingdom.

I shall conclude with telling you, That as I have with the Hazard of every thing, Rescued your Religion, Laws and Liberties, when they were in the Extreamest Danger, so I shall place the Glory of My Reign in preserving them Entire, and Leaving them so to Posterity.

Kensington, Dec. 4. The following Address from the City of *Winchester* was sent up by his Grace the Duke of *Bolton*, and presented to His Majesty by the Right Honourable the Lord *William Pawlett* one of their Representatives in Parliament.

To the King's Most Excellent Majesty.

The Humble Address of the Mayor, Bayliffs, and Commonalty of Your Ancient City of *Winchester*.

Great SIR,

AFter our Unfeigned Thanks to Almighty God for the Preservation of Your Sacred Person from those many and eminent Dangers You have so often Exposed Your Self to for the good of us Your People, by Your unparallelled Goodness and Courage, rescued from the Bonds of Popery and Tyranny.

We beg leave to lay at Your Feet our Humble Acknowledgments and Congratulations for Your Safe and Triumphal Return to these Your Kingdoms, Crowned with Peace and Good Success, which the Glory of Your Arms hath obtained for us and all Christendom, and which we hope long to reap the Benefit of, with the additional Blessing of Enjoying Your Royal Presence amongst us, freed from the Hazards and carefull Fatigues of Foreign Expeditions.

Be pleased therefore, Great SIR, *to give us leave to assure Your Majesty, that we will on all Occasions use our utmost Endeavour to Defend Your Sacred Person and Your Just and Legal Right to Your Crown and Government against all Your Enemies whatsoever both at home and abroad, and never Cease to Implore the Divine Blessing on Your Royal Person, in a long Life and a happy and peaceful Reign over us.*

The following Address from *Andover* was presented to His Majesty by *Roger Mompesson* Esq; Steward, and other Members of the said Corporation, introduced by the Right Honourable *John Smith* Esq; one of the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury.

To the King's Most Excellent Majesty.

The Humble Address of the Bayliff, Steward, Approved Men and Burgesses of *Andover*.

WE Your Majesties most Dutiful and Loyal Subjects, the Bayliff, Steward, and Approved-Men and Burgesses of Your Ancient Corporation of Andover, being fully sensible of Your Majesties Hereditary and Heroick Inclinations towards the Good and Liberty of Mankind, which Your Majesty hath in an Eminent Manner given Demonstration of in preserving these Nations from those Apparent Dangers that lately threatned both the Church and State.

We cannot but Esteem Your Majesty as well a Peculiar Blessing to these Kingdoms, as the Glorious Instrument of Almighty God in our Deliverance.

And Your Majesty having compleated our Felicity by obtaining for us and Europe such an Honourable Peace as, we doubt not, will be lasting, since it hath Your Majesties Courage and Conduct for its Security. As an Humble Acknowledgment of all this Transcendant Goodness to us and our Neighbours abroad, we in a most humble manner beg leave to Assure your Majesty that our Lives and Fortunes which Your Majesty hath so generously Preserved shall, upon all Occasions, be exposed to the Utmost Hazards whenever the Service of Your Majesties Royal Person and Government shall require it. And our fervent Prayers and utmost Endeavours shall always be, That Your Majesties Reign may be Long and Prosperous over us and all your Dominions.

The following Address from *Dover* was presented to His Majesty by Sir *Basil Dixwell* one of their Representatives in Parliament, introduced by the Earl of *Romney* Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports.

To His Majesty, William *the Third, by the Grace of* GOD *King of* England, Scotland, France, *and* Ireland, *Defender of the Faith, &c.*

May it please Your Majesty,

WE the Mayor, Jurats, Common Council, Gentlemen, and Inhabitants of Your Majesty's Town and Port of Dover, *(Cordially faithfull to You, as well from the Ties of our former voluntary and early Associations, as from the great Obligations of Duty and Loyalty,) do now Humbly beleave, amongst Your most truly and affectionate Subjects Congratulate Your Majesty's happy return amongst us, having Reestablished these Your Nations and all Eur[ope] Peace.*

Your Majesty came over at first to Restore us to o[ur] on, Liberties and Properties; You have ever since the Innumerable Dangers of a Tedious War to D[efend]